Reviewer's report

**Title:** Bioenergetic Study of Murine Hepatic Tissue Treated In Vitro with Atorvastatin

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 4 February 2013

**Reviewer:** Xingguo Cheng

**Reviewer's report:**

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• **Major Compulsory Revisions**

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Answer: I have previously reviewed this manuscript. However, in the revised manuscript, the authors did not address my major concerns at all. The followings are my major concerns of the manuscript. 1) To make the story more complete, in vivo mouse studies with atorvastatin should be included. Because of the potential differences between in vivo and in vitro studies, it is necessary to compare the data from in vivo and in vitro studies. In addition, species variances in drug responses are generally recognized. However, hepatic effects of atorvastatin have only been investigated in humans and rats. Therefore, there is no in vivo data suggesting that atorvastatin has similar hepatic effects in mice. So it is necessary to determine, at the first place, whether atorvastatin causes any hepatic effects in mice. 2) The Discussion section is not well linked to the Results. For instance, the authors have investigated urea synthesis following atorvastatin treatment. However, the authors did not give the rationale and also did not give an explanation of the results. Similarly, the authors did not discuss the histology following atorvastatin treatment.

• **Minor Essential Revisions**

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Answer: 1) the Results and the Figure Legends are not well presented. I would suggest that the authors give the description for each individual figure in the Results. In addition, it could be better if the authors can write the figure legend for each individual figure. For example, in Figure 1, the authors can write the figure legend for Figure 1A, then 1B, 1C, and 1D. 2) In Page 5, the authors states that their animal facility is in compliance with NIH (USA) guidance. Is this true?

• **Discretionary Revisions**

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Answer: no additional comment.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests